

In the claims:

1. In a radio communication system having a mobile node operable to communicate with a network part of a communication network, the network part at least 5 operable to route a call, originated at the mobile node, to at least a first service center, an improvement of apparatus for facilitating call-placement by a user of the mobile node of a call to the first service center, said apparatus comprising:

an identifier code request generator embodied at the mobile node, said identifier code request generator selectively operable to generate a request for communication to the 10 network part, the request generated by said identifier code generator for requesting at least a first network-part identifier code that identifies, at the network part, the at least the first service center; and

15 an indexer embodied at the mobile node, said indexer for indexing at least a first mobile-node identifier code that identifies, at the mobile node, the at least the first service center, together with a corresponding at least first network-part identifier code returned to the mobile node responsive to the request generated by said identifier code request generator.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a detector embodied at the mobile node, said detector for detecting a response to the request generated by said 20 identifier code request generator, and wherein said indexer is coupled to said detector to receive indications of the at least the first network-part identifier code contained in the response.

25 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile node performs a registration procedure pursuant to registration of the mobile node with the network part, and wherein the request generated by said identifier code request generator is generated automatically subsequent to the registration procedure.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile node further comprises a user input actuator actuatable by the user of the mobile node, wherein said apparatus further comprises a transposer coupled to the user input actuator and to said indexer, said transposer operable responsive to actuation of the user input actuator with values of a mobile-node identifier of the at least the first mobile-node identifier to transpose the values into a corresponding network-part identifier of the at least the first network-part identifier.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the radio communication system comprises a GSM (General System for Mobile communications) cellular communication system permitting communication of USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) – 10 formatted data and wherein the request generated by said identifier code request generator comprises a USSD-formatted message.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least the first network-part identifier code further has a mnemonic associated therewith, the mnemonic representable in a first language, and wherein said identifier code request generator further requests the mnemonic 15 associated with the at least the first network-part identifier code in a selected one of the first and at least second languages, respectively.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mobile node further comprises a user display device and wherein indicia associated with the at least the first network-part identifier code returned to the mobile node responsive to the request generated by said 20 identifier code request generator is selectively displayed upon the user display device.

25 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least the first mobile-node identifier code that identifies, at the mobile node, the at least the first service center comprises a first set of a first number of mobile-node identifier codes, wherein the at least the first network-part identifier code that is returned to the mobile node comprises a second set of a second number of network-part identifier codes, the second number greater than the first number.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said indexer further comprises a storage element, the storage element for storing values representative of the mobile-node identifier codes of the first set together with corresponding values of the network-part identifier codes indexed together therewith, the storage element further for storing values 5 representative of additional ones of the network-part identifier codes in excess of the first number.

10. In the radio communication system of claim 1, a further improvement of network apparatus for facilitating the call-placement by the user of the mobile node of the call to the first service center, said apparatus comprising:

10 a retriever operable responsive to detection at the communication network of the request generated by said identifier code generator, said retriever for retrieving the at least the first network-part identifier code at the network part for return to the mobile node.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a data base element at which values representative of the at least the first network-part identifier code are stored, and 15 wherein said retriever retrieves the at least the first network-part identifier code at the network part by accessing the values stored at said data base element.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein a mnemonic is further associated with the at least first network-part identifier code and wherein values representative of the mnemonic are further stored at said data base element.

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13. In a method of communicating in a radio communication system having a mobile node operable to communicate with a network part of a communication network, the network part at least operable to route a call, originated at the mobile node, to at least a first service center, an improvement of a method for facilitating call-placement by a user of 25 the mobile node of a call to the first service center, said method comprising:

generating an identifier code request at the mobile node, the request for requesting at least a first network-part identifier code that identifies, at the network part, the at least the first service center; and

sending the identifier code request generated during said operation of generating to

5 the communication network;

detecting, at the mobile node, a response to the request sent during said operation of sending, the response containing values representative of the first network-part identifier code; and

indexing, at the mobile node, at least a first mobile-node identifier code that
10 identifies, at the mobile node, the at least the first service center, together with a corresponding at least first network-part identifier code detected during said operation of detecting.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the operations of: entering, at
15 the mobile node, values of a selected mobile-node identifier code of the at least the first mobile-node identifier code; and transposing the values into a corresponding network-part identifier code indexed together therewith.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the operation of placing a call to the service center identified by the network-part identifier code into which the values of the
20 selected mobile-node identifier code are transposed during said operation of transposing.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising the operation of routing the call placed during said operation of placing through the communication network to the first service center.

25 17. The method of claim 13 further comprising the operation, subsequent to said operation of sending of: routing the request to an application server at which values representative of the at least the first network-part identifier code are stored; and retrieving the values stored at the application server.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein communication network comprises a plurality of network parts, wherein separate values of network-part identifier codes associated with separate ones of the network parts are stored at the application server, and wherein said operation of retrieving further comprises selecting which of the values stored 5 at the application server are to be retrieved.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the radio communication system comprises a GSM (General System for Mobile communications) cellular communication system permitting communication of USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) – formatted data and wherein the request generated during said operation of generating 10 comprises a USSD-formatted message.

20. The method of claim 13 wherein the mobile node further comprises a user input actuator actuatable by the user of the mobile node, and wherein said method further comprises the operation of displaying indicia associated with the at least the first network-part identifier code upon the user display device.